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**Human Trafficking and Forced Labor in For-Profit Detention Facilities:  
Strategic Litigation in the United States**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Human Trafficking Legal Center announces the release of a new fact sheet, “Human Trafficking & Forced Labor in For-Profit Detention Facilities: Strategic Litigation in U.S. Federal Courts.”

This publication analyzes civil federal trafficking cases brought against detention facilities and affiliated entities in the United States. The cases provide vivid examples of allegations against private prison corporations, municipalities, and others for violations of trafficking, involuntary servitude, and forced labor laws. Detainees and others have courageously come forward to demand an end to these alleged abuses. Courts, heeding this call, are sending a clear message: no one is above the law when it comes to forced labor and trafficking.

In all, the report covers 17 cases in a dozen federal jurisdictions. The case studies include civil suits brought by indigent individuals detained in debtors’ prisons and forced to work off their debts, as well as lawsuits brought by individuals sent to “diversion programs” alleged to engage in forced labor. Six of the cases stem from alleged violations by private prison companies against immigrant detainees. Alexandra F. Levy, Senior Staff Attorney at the Human Trafficking Legal Center and author of the fact sheet, said, “Individuals in detention are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Those authorized by the state to detain them are some of the most powerful. It’s not a surprise that this imbalance would lead to abuse.”

Immigration detainees have brought these cases under the civil provision of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA), among other causes of action. The Human Trafficking Legal Center welcomes this innovative and strategic use of the human trafficking statutes. Private detention facilities and related entities should not profit from exploitation. Levy said, “These lawsuits are changing the calculus for private detention facilities: forced labor might, in the end, be extremely expensive.”

Please join The Human Trafficking Legal Center and the Freedom Network at a webinar to discuss these cases. The webinar will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 2pm. Please register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3726176027774580226>.

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*The Human Trafficking Legal Center connects human trafficking survivors with highly-skilled pro bono attorneys nationwide. We hold traffickers accountable for their crimes through civil litigation and criminal restitution. The Human Trafficking Legal Center maintains databases of civil and criminal federal trafficking cases filed in the United States. The organization conducts in-depth research on human trafficking trends and victims' rights. For more information, please visit [www.htlegalcenter.org](http://www.htlegalcenter.org).*